CONFIDENTIAL

SELECTIONS

FROM THE

VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHED IN THE PANJAB,

NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES,

OUDH, CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR

Received up to 24th June, 1880.

POLITICAL.

The Oudh Akhbar of the 24th June states that at last the cat is out of the bag. We were con-Abdul Rahman Khan. vinced long ago that there must be some reason why Abdul Rahman deferred accepting the offer made to him. It is obvious that hitherto he did not deem it expedient to come to terms with us without consulting Russia. Now that hostilities have broken out between Russia and China, and he has been convinced that he cannot count upon Russian aid in the event of an emergency, he has made up his mind to come to Kabul. It is surprising that, although he is a friend of Russia, we are anxious to bestow the Amirship of Kabul upon him. It will be remembered that we declared war against Sher Ali in order to prevent him from intriguing with Russia. What will the world think of us if we now, place a protège of hers on the throne? Moreover, it should be observed that we are proud that we have secured a scientific frontier. But our so-called scientific frontier is at present no better than a cobweb. We have not built any fortifications to strengthen it. It would not be wise to recede from Kabul

Circulation, 685 copies.

until we have a strong and fortified frontier to fall back upon, It is difficult to realize why the Government is so impatient to evacuate Kabul. Our retirement, without securing the objects for which we undertook the war, is calculated to lower our prestige. Moreover, it should be remembered that if we withdraw our troops without placing the affairs of that country on a satisfactory footing, bloody civil wars will immediately follow. Our prolonged negotiations with Abdul Rahman have not yet succeeded in eliciting his intentions. At all events it is clear that he crossed the Oxus with the connivance of Russia. We have, however, determined to shut our eyes to everything and to place him on the throne. We would recommend the reinstatement of Yakub Khan rather than acquiesce in the bestowal of the Amirship upon Abdul Rahman, on the principle that of two evils we should choose the lesser. Although Yakub Khan is a weak and timid prince, he is an inveterate enemy of the Russians, acquainted with our power and resources, and loved by the whole Afghan population. Abdul Rahman is a friend of Russia, and many chiefs are opposed to his appointment as It remains to be seen what policy he pursues on his arrival at Kabul. There is reason to think that, when he arrives at Kabul and sees our perfect military organization, our disciplined troops, and the vast quantity of arms and ammunition that at present lie there, he may be convinced of our superiority to Russia in military strength. In that case he may be induced to abandon his friendship with her, place himself under our protection, and accept the Amirship of Kabul. But it should be remembered that the Amirship of Kabul is at present, as it were, a necklace of razors. If he thinks that he will be unable to manage the affairs of the country, or if he does not approve of the terms on which we offer him the Amirship, he will probably refuse our offer and content himself with the sovereignty of Turkestan, which he has already obtained, and with which neither we nor the Russians can at present interfere.

Circulation, 275 copies.

The Panjábí Akhbár of the 19th June publishes a vernacular translation of the memorial Afghan politics. which Yakub Khan is said to have sent to Lord Ripon, and which first appeared in the Statesman, and argues that the memorial is a forged one. writer then refers to the rumour that Abdul Rahman has a Russian agent with him, and remarks that if the rumour is true, it reflects great discredit upon the British officers at Kabul. It is surprising that they did not know that he had a Russian agent with him, and that they should have sent him a mission and offered him the Amirship. We are disposed to consider the rumour to be false. It is difficult to realize that such an able and experienced officer as Mr. Lepel Griffin, who is well acquainted with the Afghan sirdars, would send a mission to Abdul Rahman if he had a Russian agent with him. He has hitherto deferred accepting the Amirship, and probably this has tended to produce false impressions in the mind of the public. To our thinking he is unwilling to accept the Amirship because the Government has annexed part of Afghanistan to British territories and placed part of it under a separate independent chief. He naturally wishes to inherit the whole of Afghanistan, over which his father, Afzal Khan, or Sher Ali ruled. He would be the last man to hesitate to accept the Amirship. We strongly advise the Government to propose more lenient terms than those already proposed, in order that he may accept them. If our negotiations with him fail, he will become our enemy. In that case there is no doubt that he would be able to give us more trouble than Muhammad Jan or Mir Bacha has done. established his authority in Turkestan and even issued coins in his own name. The outbreak of hostilities with him would much prolong the war and involve a great deal of additional expenditure. But if he foolishly refuses the more lenient terms which the Government may be pleased to propose, it should place another sirdar on the throne. We are strongly opposed to the appointment of Musa Khan. We should annex ifghanistan rather than place him on the throne. He is a mere

child. If we appointed him to the throne, we would have to take the administration into our hands until he came of age.

Circulation, 300 copies.

The Putiala Akhbar of the 14th June protests against the bestowal of the Amirship of Kabul The same. on Abdul Rahman, on the ground that he is a friend of Russia, and recommends the reinstatement of The writer states that Yakub Khan is grateful to the Government for the many favours he has received from it. When he was imprisoned by his father, Lord Northbrook, the late Viceroy, interfered on his behalf and asked for his release. He has received lakhs of rupees from the Government. Moreover, he is acquainted with the power and resources of England. As regards the massacre of the British embassy, which was established at Kabul in accordance with the treaty of Gandamak, it should be remembered that he at first strongly objected to the establishment of a British Agent at Kabul, on the ground that the Afghans would not approve of it. But when the Government insisted upon it, he yielded. He alone could not protect the embassy against all his sirdars and the people. He is accused of instigating the massacre by Wali Muhammad and some of his friends. But they are his bitter enemies, and consequently their evidence cannot be considered trustworthy. Had Yakub Khan been guilty, he would not have voluntarily joined the British camp at Khushi, but would have sought refuge in flight like his father, or taken the field against General Roberts. he committed any fault, he has already been sufficiently punished for it. If the Government pardons him and replaces him on the throne, there is reason to think that he will always be grateful and faithful to it in future. It has always been the custom in Asia that when a rebellious chief surrenders himself to the king and throws himself on his mercy, the king forgives him and reinstates him in authority.

Circulation, 150 copies. The Nusrat-ul-Akhbár of the 11th June (received on the The Musalmans and 19th idem) refers to the telegram re-Christians. ceived from Constantinople on the 30th

May, that the Ulemans and Muhammadan fanatics at Constantinople are counselling resistance to the demands of the European powers, and remarks that every Musalman who speaks in favour of Islam is now considered a fanatic. But no one calls the Christians, who have already destroyed more than half the Muhammadan population of the whole earth, and are still bent on destroying them, fanatics; on the contrary they are highly praised for their civilization.

NATIVE STATES.

A correspondent of the Rahbar-i-Hind of the 22nd June, writing from Srinagar, states: -Before The export duty levied the outbreak of the famine in Kashmir by the Kashmir darbar upon shawls. a license-tax was levied upon shawlweavers; moreover, an export duty was levied upon shawls at the rate of 5 per cent ad valorem. The shawl-weavers have very much suffered from the famine, and therefore the State has abolished the license-tax which they had to pay. In order to make good the loss the State has increased the export duty from Rs. 5 to Rs. 25 per cent., which has quite ruined the shawl trade. Both the State and the traders have suffered from this great increase of the duty. The traders have given up the trade, and consequently the income which the State derived from the duty has been considerably reduced. The writer urges that the State should abolish the present heavy ad valorem duty and substitute in its place another which should be levied at a suitable and uniform rate per piece.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

The Shola-i-Túr (Cawnpore) of the 22nd June publishes
a brief account of the meeting which
The Rafah-i-Am Association, Lucknow.

June by the Rafah-i-Am Association,
of which Nawab Sarim-ud-daula is the patron and Munshi
Raza Husain Khan president. About six hundred persons,

Circulation, 425 copies.

Circulation, 300 copies. including the princes and talukdars of Lucknow, attended the meeting. Several speeches were delivered on the occasion regarding the grievances of the natives, and a memorial was prepared and approved for submission to Parliament Association recommends the following matters for the consideration of Parliament :- the abolition of the license-tax; the amendment of the Arms Act; the establishment of industrial schools; representation in the Supreme Legislative Council; the retrenchment of military expenditure; the repeal of the Vernacular Press Act; the introduction of permanent settlement; the appointment of natives to the higher offices in the military service; the extension of the limit of age for candidates to the Civil Service to 25 years; and the introduction of certain alterations in the new Civil Service Rules, with a view to make education the chief recommendation on the part of candidates for admission to the Service under those rules; and to exclude Eurasians from the term native.

Circulaton, 100 copies.

The Ashraf-ul-Akhbar of the 21st June states that when Lord Lytton's Indian Lord Lytton came to India natives warmly welcomed him. It was expected that he would greatly improve the condition of the country. The Imperial Assemblage held by him at Dehli and the minute recorded by him in the Fuller case excited great hopes in the minds of the natives, but unfortunately they have been disappointed. He has brought odium on himself by his subsequent mischievous acts. He introduced the license-tax, which presses very severely upon the people. He abused the Indian Association of Calcutta and treated all other public associations with severity. He gagged the vernacular press in order that the natives may not be able to criticise his acts. He aggrieved the hearts of the native chiefs by his hostile attitude towards them. His Afghan war has entailed heavy losses upon the country in men and money-The natives will never forget the troubles and hardships to which they were exposed during his administration. It is a great relief that his reign is over and he is about to depart

from India. Lord Ripon, the new Liberal Viceroy, has arrived, and we hope that he will remedy all the evils.

The Núr-ul-Absar of the 15th June (received on the 23rd idem) states that the settlement has

tor the rent to the zamindar. In time of extreme distress the

tor the rent to the zamindar. In time of extreme distress the Government sanctions partial remissions of revenue, but the over-zealous tahsildars always try to realise the revenue to the last penny and confiscate even the beds and cooking utensils of the cultivators. The license-tax presses severely upon poor traders. According to the License-tax Act all annual incomes below a certain amount are exempt from the

tax, but this limit is not strictly observed in practice. The subordinate native officers who make the assessments are neither very intelligent nor conscientious. Abnormally high prices have prevailed in the country for some years past, and consequently the people are in great distress. It appears from a letter published in the *Pioneer* of the 7th June regarding the license-tax that the new Viceroy has received instructions from the Home Government to abolish the tax.

The Nar-ul-Absar then publishes a vernacular translation of that letter, in which the writer recommends the substitution of a real license-tax in the place of the present tax, which is to all intents and purposes an income-tax. He is of opinion that there should be only two rates, viz., Rs. 16 and Rs. 8, and all annual incomes below Rs. 500 should be exempt from the tax. In record to the above letter the Nava Absar.

the tax. In regard to the above letter the Núr-ul-Absúr remarks that the writer of the letter is obviously a district officer. He recommends the re-imposition of the old license-tax in the place of the existing tax, which he calls an income-

tax, on the ground that the former did not produce so much discontent as the latter has done. The fact of the matter is

Circulation, 104 copies. that the so-called income-tax affects rich and influential persons who can make themselves heard, while the license-tax presses only upon the poor, who are dumb. The writer in question says that fraud in the collection of the license-tax would be impossible. This simply shows his ignorance. Some district officers trust the amla too much, but it is a great mistake on their part to do so. Such officers are generally much deceived by the amla.

Circulation, 250 copies. The Dabir-i-Hind (Allahabad) of the 19th June states that Munshi Muhammad Abhe who speaks truth foolishly exposes dulla Khan, the tahsildar of Allahabad, and the Dabir-i-Hind. We have fallen a victim to the cause of truth. We have

from time to time exposed the tyranny and oppression of the local officers. The result is that we have incurred their displeasure, and Muhammad Abdulla Khan, the tabsildar, who is a protège of the Magistrate and Commissioner, and some of whose illegal acts were lately referred to in these columns, is about to prosecute us for alleged defamation. As we have frequently criticised the administration of the Magistrate, he bears an ill-will towards us, and is virtually the plaintiff in this case. If he decides the case, it is simply impossible that he will do us justice. The case of Pandit Har Sahai and Mir Asgar Ali, the tabsildar of Shikohabad, are good examples of this. In these circumstances, we hope that the local Government will be pleased to ask the High Court to transfer our case to its own file or to that of any Sessions Judge other than that of Allahabad.

The Landhaura case.

States that soon after his accession to the gaddi the Raja was thrown into the river by his enemies. Fortunately he was not drowned, but picked up by a faqir, who kept him with him for some days and fed him. When the Raja had regained his atrength, he went to Landhaura, declared himself to be the Raja, and claimed possession of his estate. His enemies arrested

him and sent him to prison. Some persons sympathised with him and assisted him in instituting a suit in the district civil court for the recovery of his estate. The suit was dismissed by the district court. Now he has appealed to the High Court against the judgment of the district court. Whenever we think of the fate of this unfortunate Raja we begin to tremble with fear. The fact of the matter is that no Government can protect the weak against the strong. Sheep are destined to be slaughtered. If the facts of the Landhaura case are what they are generally stated to be, we have here an instance under the present regime which is said to be a legal government, of the rightful owner being disposessed of his estate by his enemies, and on appealing to the court for assistance, being sentenced to imprisonment by it. What greater oppression prevailed under the late regime, which was said to be a government of the sword? The only difference between the two is that formerly the strong openly oppressed the weak with impunity; but now, if a man injures another, he must produce false witnesses in court in order to evade punishment. We may falsely flatter the Government that the people enjoy perfect security of life and property under it and that the strong cannot oppress the weak, but the fact is as has been above stated. The Landhaura case makes our hair stand on end. We are afraid that the local officers, whose tyranny and oppression we have exposed, may instigate any man to bring a false charge against us and send us to prison. It is gratifying to hear that Mr. Justice Pearson intends to make enquiries on the spot in the Landhaura case. There is reason to think that he will do justice to the unfortunate Raja.

The same paper complains that a very objectionable practice prevails in some courts of the District and Sessions Judges in the North-Western Provinces, which is a Judges.

The pleaders should not tice prevails in some courts of the District and Sessions Judges in the North-Western Provinces, which is a source of great inconvenience and loss to the suitors. If the counsel for the defence or prosecution,

or both, know English, the Judge allows him or them, as the case may be, to address the court in English, with which neither the suitors nor the assessors are generally acquainted. The writer contends that the pleaders should be required to plead only in vernacular.

The same paper, on the authority of its Pilibhit corres-The Sarishtadar, Canal pondent, complains that the Sarishta-Department, Pilibhit. dar who is employed in the Canal Department at Pilibhit lately held a lottery for his horse, compelled all his subordinates, such as zaildars, muharrirs, suboverseers, amins, chaukidars, &c., to take chances, and deducted the value of the chances from their pay.

A correspondent of the same paper, writing from Azam-Lala Chhote Lal, the garh, states that one Geti Singh, a tabsilder of Asamgarh. zamindar, has a garden. There are an imambara and a masjid in it. The roof of the imambara has fallen in, but some Musalmans go every day to the masjid to offer their daily prayers. The garden formerly belonged to a Musalman called Mir Pattu. Geti Singh wishes to turn the garden into a corn-field. When some time ago he began to cut the trees in the garden, the Musalmans of the town were much displeased with this and appealed to Mr. Gardener, the late Magistrate of Azamgarh, to prohibit him from cutting the trees. Mr. Gardener, after making full enquiries into the matter, prohibited him from cutting the trees and turning the garden into a corn-field. He has now appealed to the Subordinate Judge against the judgment of Mr. Gardener. Lala Chhote Lal, the tabsildar, who is prejudiced against the Musalmans, is in his favour. The tahsildar is of opinion that the imambara and the masjid should be demolished, and a Hindu temple built in their place.

The Qaisar-ul-Akhbar (Allahabad) of the 20th June states
that low and wicked persons cannot
appreciate the liberty of the press. If
a man of this class is allowed to publish a newspaper, he will

generally ridicule and abuse persons of rank and position and publish false complaints against the Government and its officers. Only respectable and educated men should be allowed to publish newspapers. When any person applies for permission to start a newspaper, the Magistrate should make enquiries regarding his character from some respectable inhabitants of the place where he is going to establish his press. A local contemporary has for some time past been continually ridiculing a native officer and publishing false complaints against him.

RAILWAY.

The Rajputana State The following is an extract from the Jaipur Gazette of the 19th June:—

Circulation, 275 copies.

"Want of rolling stock has been a standing complaint from the commencement of the Rajputana State Railway. Though measures have been adopted from time to time to supply it by opening workshops in several places, yet, judging from results, we cannot say that the deficiency has been fully supplied. The manner in which passengers are thrown into third class carriages whenever there is a rush would very well substantiate our complaint. Again, we do not understand the logic why all round the year each compartment of the small carriages in this line should be occupied by the same number of men, while in other lines that have big carriages passengers are accommodated with due regard to the seasons. The third class compartments of this line can with difficulty contain eight persons in winter. To put in the same number, without any regard to the convenience and comforts of the passengers, during the hottest days seems to be a very severe ruling. The authorities of the line have had sufficient experience to allow alterations and additions in their preconceived rulings. Another point, to which we beg to draw the attention of the authorities, closely allied to the former, is that, there being only one second class carriage in each train, the

[•] The paper referred to is obviously the Dubir-i-Hind of Allahabed.

native passengers are sometimes put to great trouble and inconvenience. When one of the compartments is occupied by railway officials who hold free passes, and the occupant of the other is a lady or a European passenger, the native passengers, be they four or more, are all obliged to go into one compartment, at the sacrifice of their comfort and sleep during night. To remedy this evil we would beg to suggest the introduction of an intermediate class, to which natives could more freely resort. It appears that it was once the intention of Government to have such a class, as is evident from a number of carriages now running as third class carriages being labelled "Intermediate Class." Why the project was abandoned is better known to the authorities themselves. We are quite confident that if an intermediate class is opened, the middle class people would largely avail themselves of it. The second class charge is nearly treble the third, so it is not within their means to pay. The introduction of this class will be a great boon to the people of Rajputana, and will considerably diminish the crush of passengers in the third class."

Circulation,

A correspondent of the Bharat Bandhu of the 18th June

The sweepers should not be placed in the same carriages with the other classes of the people. strongly denounces the Railway companies for placing sweepers in the same carriages with other classes of the people, and hopes that the Gov-

ernment will interfere and put a stop to this evil.

LOCAL

Circulation, 685 copies. The Oudh Akhbár of the 24th June complains of the spread

The spread of venereal of venereal disease at Lucknow, and disease at Lucknow.

recommends the re-establishment of a lock-hospital to check the evil.

LIST OF PAPERS EXAMINED.

NAME.	LOCALITY.	LOCALITY. LANGUAGE.	MONTHLY, WEEKLY, OR OTHERWISE.	NAME OF PUBLISHER.	DATE OF PAPER.	DATE OF PAPER. DATE OF RECEIPT.	CIRCULATION.
					1880.	1880.	
1 Aftab-i-Panjab	Lahore Urdu		Bi-weekly	Bi-weekly Divan Buta Singh, June 18th & 21st	June 18th & 21st	June	660 copies.
2 Afral-M-Akhbar	4	Ditto	Weekly	Muhammad	" 7th & 14th	" 21st "	128
Agra Athber	Agra	Ditto		Khwaja Usuf Ali,	" 21st		280 %
	Meerut		Ditto		, 19th .:	, 22nd	
Athberi-Temonati, Almel-ul-Athber	i, Lucknow, Delhi	Ditto	Ditto	Puran Chand Sayyid Fakhr-ud-	" 16th	, 18th	%
8 Aligara Institute Gacette.	Aligarh	Institute Aligarh Urdu- E ng - Bi-	reekly	dolab Rai	" 19th & 22nd	" 21st & 24th respectively.	282 copies (including 65 copies taken by
9 Almoral Aliber Almoral 10 Anjument-Aliber Shabjah		Bindi	Bi-monthly,	Sada Nand	, 15th	, 19th	Govt.) 50 copies. 20 s
11 Anjuman-i-Panjab Lahore	Lahore	Disto	Weekly	Mir Nusar Ali	" 18th "	" 22nd	880 copies (including 200
Asser-ul-Alilber Assery-ul-Alilber Bertr Somdelde	Lucknow Delhi Akola	Ditto Tri- Ditto Tri- Marathi-Eng- Wee	itto monthly,	Togh Bahadur Mirsa Khan Khande Rao Balaji,	" 14th & 21st	28rd 24th	0

List of papers examined—(continued).

No.	NAME.	LOGALITY	LOGALITY. LANGUAGE.	MONTHLY, WERELY, OR OTHERWISE.	NAME OF PUBLISHER.	DATE OF PAPER.	DATE OF RECEIPT.	CIBOULATION.	LATIO
1						1880.	1880.		
12	Bharat Bandhe	Aligarh Hindi		Weekly		June 18th	June	140	copies.
12	Dabdaba-i-Sikundri, Rampur	Rampur	Ditto	Ditto	Muhammad Husain,	, 21st	23rd	604	: :
18	18 Dabir-i-Hind	Allahabad, Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Mirsa Muhammad	" 19th	, 19th	250	:
28	19 Gwalior Gazette	Gwalior	Gwalior Hindi-Urdu,	Ditto Bi-weekly	Mahendro Nath	" 13th "	" 18th	275	
488	Johns The Kernemak Kasii Patriba		4 et 1	Weekly Disto	Sen. Rai Ganeshi Lal Muhammad Yaqub, Baleshwar Prassed.	, 21sth 18th	10th	100 ** 250 550 oopies	* : 8
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42	Kentob-i-Hind Keri Vactor Sudle,			Bi-monthly, Weekly	Revd. J. Craven Chintamani Sarma,			808	copies
258	Francisco Com.	Lacknow,	Ordu Ditto	西多	Khairati Ial	, 19th	2 20th	16 " 1570 copies cluding	ies (in
18	Lawrence Gentle		Diffe	Diffe	Sayyid Jamil.ud-	. 14th			T. E.

30 Lytton Gazette ... Ditto ... Bitto ... Bilagi Das ... 21st ... 1 98rd

Marvar Gazette	Jodhpur	Jodhpur Hindi-Urdu,	da,	" Weekly	Gobardhan Das	nath,	, 111 "	11th & 18th	4	18th & 24th respectively.	24th ively.	100	
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Akhbar	Etawah	Ditto	: :	Ditto	Muhammad Bay	Hayat,	# 14th	14th & 16th	;,	18th	i	116	
i	Meerut	Ditto	1	Daily		:	" 8th	8	न	22nd			•
1 :	Ludhiens.	Ditto		Weekly Road E. M.	_ B		22	20th	-	101	i	282	:
•		Disto		Bi-monthly,		1	2:		1	28rd	1	104 00	104 copies (in-
	Cawnpore, Delhi Lucknow,	Ditto Ditto	177	Weekly Muhammad Tri-monthly, Nusrat Ali Shee Narai	Muhammad Yaqub, y, Nusrat Ali Shee Narain	र्वु । ।	118	19th 11th 18th to 24th	i i i		24th	copies to Seving	copies taken by Govt.) 50 copies. 66 " 85 copies (in-
11		Ditto	: 1	Weekly Ditto	Muhammad Azim, Fateh-ud-din	á i	, 12ti	2th & 19th 15th	a :	22nd	11	275 Py G	Prot
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List of papers examined—(concluded).

NAME.	LOCALITY.	LOCALITY. LANGUAGE.	MONTHLY, WEEKLY, OR OTHERWISE.	NAME OF PUBLISHER.	DATE OF PAPER.	DATE OF PAPER. DATE OF RECEIPT.	CIRCULATION.
		18.00			1880.	1880.	
56 Sabbar-i-Hind Lahore Urdu 56 Sabba Kapurthala Kapurthala Ditto	Lahore		Weekly	Nadir Ali Shah	June 22nd	June 24th	425 copies
57 Sadiq-ul-Alibber	Shawalpur	Ditto	Ditto	Revd. Rajab Ali	" 17th "	" 22nd	200
59 Said-ul-Akhber Budaun Ditte 60 Seijen Kirti Sudha- Udaipur Hindl	Budaun		Ditto Bi-monthly,	Ditto Afzal Ali monthly, Banshi Dhar	" 17th	. 20th	10 10 11
11 Sharaba Takér	Shahjahan- Urdu		Weekly	Azis Ahmad Khan,	n 20st	28rd	2
Shale-i-Tir	Cawnpore, Dhar	6, Ditto Marathi	Ditto	Hari Bhaskar	20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 2	24th	300

SEA June 1680.

Goot. Reporter on the Vernacular Press of Upper India.